

Department of Correction

Testimony of Brian K. Murphy, Acting Commissioner

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Raised Bill No. 96, *AAC the Authorization of Bonds of the State for Replacement of Patrol Radio Equipment for Correction Officers*

February 23, 2010

Good afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. I am pleased to submit to you testimony regarding Raised Bill No. 96, *An Act Concerning the Authorization of Bonds of the State for Replacement of Patrol Radio Equipment for Correction Officers*.

The DOC is presently in the process of purchasing and replacing radios. We are actually replacing our EF Johnson radios to a new manufacturer called Tait, as parts are no longer made for the EF Johnson radios, which we started using around 1993. In 2008, the DOC received \$2,000,000.00 in bond funding to begin the replacement process. Approximately one-third of the agency's radios were replaced at that time. Since then the DOC began to look at alternative funding sources and have committed \$1.15 million of federal funds and \$50,000 of Seized Asset Funds to purchase radios. These dollars will allow the DOC to replace an additional 850 of the agency's radios.

In view of the fact that we are presently in the process of purchasing radios, the DOC believes that SB 96 is unnecessary. Thank you for the opportunity to present the Department's views on this matter.